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**NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
NIGHTS 202300663
DOD OIG HOTLINE 20230302-083961-CASE-02
12 JUNE 2023**

INVESTIGATOR(S) AND IDENTIFYING INFORMATION AND LOCATION OF WORKING PAPERS

1. Investigator and Identifying Information.

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)
Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

2. Location of working papers. Naval Inspector General Hotline Tracking System (NIGHTS) Database.

SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

3. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), U.S. Army, alleged he has not been reimbursed for \$8,200 in travel expenses for attendance at the Advanced Joint Foreign Area Officer Program (AJFAOP) from 19 August to 1 September 2012 at NPS. He previously contacted the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) to resolve the matter but was told to contact the U.S. Navy. He contacted various personnel at NPS over the years and no one has been able to resolve the matter.

4. In 2012, the Defense Language Office (DLO) was the sponsor and provided funding to NPS to administer the AJFAOP. DLO is now called the Defense Language National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). NPS provided a fund cite authorization for \$7,700 to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to pay for his travel expenses to attend the AJFAOP.

5. Although NPS provided the fund cite authorization of \$7,700 to pay for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) travel expense in 2012, NPS was not responsible for resolving payment of travel expenses. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) attempted to resolve payment for his travel expenses with NPS in 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2022, but he did not provide a travel order or other requested authorized travel documentation. NPS could not process a travel expense reconciliation without an approved travel order. Additionally, funding associated with the travel was returned to DLNSEO in 2017. The preponderance of evidence showed there were no improper actions by NPS to warrant a full investigation. NPS was not responsible for resolving payment of travel expenses for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C).

6. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) failed to have his U.S. Army Reserve unit generate a travel order at any point in 2012 and failed to properly submit a travel voucher for payment to the U.S. Army within 5 working days of completing his travel. The U.S. Army was responsible for generating a travel order and for processing the associated travel voucher for payment for his travel expenses.

~~Controlled by: Department of the Navy~~
~~Controlled by: NPS Office of the Inspector General~~
~~CUI Categories: PRIIG, PRVCY,~~
~~Distribution/Dissemination Controls: FEDCON~~
POC: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

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7. The original \$7,700 obligation travel encumbrance was valid in 2012. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) the AJFAOP in 2012, incurred travel expenses, and did not receive reimbursement for his travel expenses.

8. On 1 October 2017, funding associated with the AJFAOP fund cite expired (appropriation closed) and was returned to DLNSEO. The Department of Defense (DoD) Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Volume 3, Chapter 10, dated July 2022, provides a provision to satisfy a valid obligation from a closed appropriation. DLNSEO would be responsible for and would need to agree to provide current year funds to satisfy the obligation to pay the travel expenses incurred by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). This could be in the form of a fund cite or line of accounting (LOA) provided to the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army would be responsible for generating a new travel order and for processing the travel voucher for payment.

Recommendations

9. Close the case. There was no allegation identified to warrant a full investigation.

10. Assist (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with information on how to resolve the matter.

11. Provide DLNSEO information on how to resolve the travel expense obligation.

12. Provide DAIG information on how to resolve the travel expense reconciliation.

BACKGROUND

13. On 31 January 2023, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) contacted the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) regarding unsettled temporary duty travel pay from 2012. On 2 February 2023, DAIG determined that the funding and travel authorization originated with the Department of the Navy, and the matters are not appropriate for DAIG to address. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was instructed to present the matters to the U.S. Navy IG or the Department of Defense IG (DoD IG).

14. On 17 February 2023, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) filed a DoD IG Hotline complaint alleging he did not receive an acknowledgement or communication from the Naval Inspector General (NAVINGEN) regarding a request submitted on 3 February 2023.¹ (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) alleged he has not been reimbursed for \$8,200 in travel expenses for attendance at the Advanced Joint Foreign Area Officer Program (AJFAOP) from 19 August to 1 September 2012 at NPS. He previously contacted the Department of the U.S. Army Inspector General for assistance in resolving the matter but was told to contact the U.S. Navy. He contacted the NPS over the years and no one has been able to resolve the matter.

15. On 7 April 2023, NAVINGEN transferred the matter to the NPS OIG. On 12 April 2023, NPS OIG opened a preliminary inquiry into the matter and conducted a clarification interview.

¹ NAVINGEN logged the contact on 2 February 2023 and started processing the complaint on 16 February 2023.

16. There was one previous case involving the same issue in the Naval Inspector General Hotline Tracking System (NIGHTS)² from 29 June 2022. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) contacted NPS a few times since 2017 to resolve the travel expense reimbursement. He was told on 26 April 2021, that NPS did not have the ability to resolve the matter since the funding had expired and was returned to the Defense Human Resource Activity (DHRA) in 2017. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was provided with additional information and contacts to help resolve his issue.

ISSUE

17. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) alleged he has not been reimbursed for \$8,200 in travel expenses for attendance at the Advanced Joint Foreign Area Officer Program (AJFAOP) from 19 August to 1 September 2012 at NPS. He previously contacted the Department of the Army Inspector General to resolve the matter but was told to contact the U.S. Navy. He contacted the NPS over the years and no one has been able to resolve the matter.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

18. On 12 April 2023 in a clarification interview, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated:

He did not have a separate DD Form 1610³ because as a reservist, he was not provided with one.

He made his own travel arrangements outside of the Defense Travel System (DTS) and understands he would only be reimbursed for the government rates for the expenses. He did not have a government travel card as an Army Reservist.

He traveled in business class, he was unable to book hotels at the government rate, and has the receipts for the travel.

He filed his travel vouchers for other travel he performed with his unit administrator. He never submitted a travel voucher for the AJFAOP because he transferred out of his unit [Consequence Management Unit] after the travel and went to the 452nd Civil Affairs Command at Fort Meade, Maryland.

He became frustrated with the lack of response in his new unit to get reimbursed. As he assumed more senior [civilian] positions in the government, it became less of a priority [to get reimbursed].

He was paid reserve pay for attending the course.

² NIGHTS 202203334

³ Request and Authorization for TDY Travel of DoD Personnel. Used for reviewing, approving, and accounting for official travel.

He did not recall receiving an email on 4 December 2018 from the NPS Travel Officer requesting documentation [approved orders (DD Form 1610), travel receipts, DD Form 1351, and the travel claim checklist] to assist in processing the travel voucher.

The NPS Comptroller could not help with the issue, and neither could DLNSEO.

19. On 24 April 2023, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) provided information from his Department of the Army Officer Evaluation Report (OER) from 21 November 2011 to 20 November 2012, that referenced his attendance at the AJFAOP.

20. Email dated 23 July 2012, subject: FW: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) – Document Number N6227112TOF2Q04 JON – KHF2Q Amount 7700.00 Ticket B001841. The email was from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Associate Operations Manager, NPS Joint Foreign Officer (FAO) Program, to then (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). The email provided:

An attachment with the line of accounting to charge flight arrangements for the Joint FAO Program Asia Course.

Information for routing of the flights. Flight one was from his command to Monterey, CA with information on area airports. Flight two was from San Francisco on 25 August 2012 to Tokyo. Flight 3 was from Tokyo on 1 September 2012 (or depart as early as the evening on 31 August 2012) to his command. A copy of the flight itinerary was requested to be provided by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) by 3 August 2012.

Information for lodging arrangements. Rooms were reserved in Monterey and bus transportation would be provided from the hotel to NPS. Lodging in Tokyo needed to be reserved at the Intercontinental. Lodging costs were the responsibility of the traveler.

21. Memorandum dated 17 July 2012, subject Fund Cite Authorization for DoD Personnel from President, NPS to the Consequence Management Unit. The fund cite (Line of Accounting (LOA)) for \$7,700 was set aside for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) travel for the AJFAOP Asia course.

Paragraph 1 stated, in part: You are authorized to cite the following accounting data for the official travel:

Authorizations:

Travel was \$3,000.

Per diem was \$4,500

Miscellaneous was \$200

Estimated total was \$7,700

No rental car was authorized

Paragraph 2 stated, in part:

It is the responsibility of the Commanding Officer (or his designated representative) to insure the traveler is notified in the travel orders of the requirement to submit a claim to the appropriate command office within 5 days after return.

Paragraph 3 stated, in part:

Travel claim is to be processed at your local command and a copy of the voucher summary to be sent to NPS.

22. Table 1 is the estimated reconstructed cost of the travel based on the 23 July 2012 email from NPS outlining transportation and lodging arrangements for the course, and per diem rates for 2012 in Monterey, CA and Tokyo, Japan. No rental car was authorized in the fund cite. The total estimated cost was \$6,737.

TABLE 1

| Item | Description | Estimated Reconstructed Costs |
|--|---|--|
| Flight 1 – Arrive on 19 August 2012 | Command [Unit] to Monterey, CA to arrive on Sunday, 19 August 2012. The closest airport is Monterey (MRY). Other close airports are San Jose (SJC) and San Francisco (SFO). | FY 2012 flight cost unknown. FY21 GSA city-pair cost from DCA to MRY was \$341 [Gov't cost should be from the home of record (HOR)(DCA ⁴) to Monterey, CA (MRY)]. * HOR is Washington DC area. |
| Lodging Week 1 – Monterey, CA. 19 – 25 August 2012 | Rooms reserved at Casa Munras Hotel. <i>Bus transportation provided from the hotel to NPS.</i> | Per diem rate was \$149 for lodging and \$71 for MI&E. Est Lodging Room: 6 days x \$149= \$894 Taxes (10%) = 89.40 Tourist Assessment (.0076) = \$6.80 Est Lodging Total: \$990.20 Est MI&E total: 1 day (75%): \$53.25 5 days x \$71 = \$355 Est MI&E Total = \$408.25 |
| Flight 2 – Depart 25 August 2012 (arrive on 26 August) and | Depart Saturday, 25 August 2012 from San Francisco to Tokyo (NRT ⁵). Return to unit on | FY 2012 flight cost unknown. |

⁴ Airports in the Washington, DC area - the Ronald Reagan Washington National (DCA), Dulles International (IAD), and Baltimore/Washington International (BWI).

⁵ NRT is the airport identifier for Narita International Airport in Tokyo, Japan.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| return to unit on 1 September 2012 | 1 September 2012 (authorized to depart as early as Friday evening, 31 August 2012. <i>Transportation provided to SFO.</i> | FY21 GSA city-pair cost from SFO to NRT/Tokyo was \$359 |
| Lodging Week 2 – Tokyo 26 August to 1 September 2012 (6 nights) | NPS requested travelers make reservations at the Intercontinental. Conversion rate on 1 September was \$1 = 78.4142 JPY Approximate lodging rate was 21,172 JPY per day Approximate MI&E rate was 19,212 JPY per day | Per diem rate was \$270 for lodging and \$245 for MI&E. Est Lodging Room 6 days x \$270 = \$1,620 Tax (.0087) x \$1,620 = \$14 Est Lodging Total = \$1,634 Est MI&E total 6 days x \$245 = \$1,470 1 day (75%) = \$183.75 Est MI&E Total = \$1,653.75 |
| Flight 3 – Return to unit on 1 September 2012 (authorized to depart as early as Friday evening, 31 August 2012). | NRT (Tokyo) to DCA | FY 2012 flight cost unknown. FY21 GSA city-pair cost from NRT/Tokyo to DCA was \$1,159 |
| Estimated Airfare Totals | Flight 1 – DCA to MRY Flight 2 – SFO to TYO/NRT Flight 3 – TYO/NRT to DCA | Flight 1 = \$341 Flight 2 = \$351 Flight 3 = \$1,159 Est Total Airfare = \$1,851 *Taxes unknown |
| Estimated Lodging Totals | Week 1 – Monterey Week 2 – Tokyo | Monterey = \$990 Tokyo = \$1,634 Est Total Lodging = \$2,624 * Taxes estimated |
| Estimated MI&E Total | Week 1 – Monterey Week 2 – Tokyo | Monterey = \$408 Tokyo= \$1,654 Est Total MI&E = \$2,062 |
| Estimated Miscellaneous | Parking, transportation, etc. | Fund cite allocation = \$200 |
| Estimated Total Cost | Flights Lodging MI&E Miscellaneous | Flights - \$1,851 Lodging - \$2,624 MI&E - \$2,062 Misc - <u>\$ 200</u> Total - <u>\$6,737</u> |

23. Table 2 is the actual cost of the travel based on receipts provided by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) on 24 April 2023. He performed circuitous travel, took non-duty days and potential leave days before and after attending the course, and traveled in business class on his own accord. He made his flight arrangements outside of the Defense Travel System (DTS) and rented a car at his personal expense which was not authorized in the original NPS funding cite. He did not stay at the hotels in Monterey, CA or Tokyo, Japan as directed by NPS officials in 2012. The total cost paid by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was approximately \$15,330.

TABLE 2

| Item | Description | Cost |
|--|--|--|
| Flight 1 – Depart on Thursday, 16 August 2012 and arrive on 16 August 2012 | Washington DC (DCA) to Los Angles (LAX) | Total flight cost was \$9,283.68 Note: DCA-LAX-NRT-MNL-DCA. Flight arrangements made outside of DTS. |
| Note: Leave/Non-duty day | Friday, 17 August 2012 Saturday, 18 August 2012 | |
| Rental Car Note: <i>Rental car was not authorized on the NPS travel Fund Cite Authorization.</i> | Rental car at LAX from 16 – 25 August 2012. | \$ 457.46 [Note paid \$361.14 with a voucher] |
| Lodging Week 1 – Monterey, CA. 19 – 24 August 2012 | Hilton Garden Inn in Monterey, CA. Note: above per diem | \$289 – Room \$28.90 – Tax \$2.19 – Tourist Assessments \$319.90 – per night x 5 nights \$1,599.50 – sub-total \$110 – Room (24 Aug) \$8.80 – Tax \$0.10 – Tourist Assessment \$118.90 – per night x 1 night \$118.90 – sub-total \$1,718.40 Total |
| Flight 2 – Depart 25 August 2012, arrive on 26 August. [Did not return to Washington DC on 1 September 2012] | Depart Saturday, 25 August 2012 from Los Angles (LAX) to Tokyo (NRT). Arrived on 26 August 2012. | |
| Transportation – Tokyo | 26 August 2012 from airport to hotel | 3,000 JPY |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | | Approximately \$38.13 Conversion rate on 26 August 2012 was \$1 = 78.682 JPY |
| Lodging Week 2 - Tokyo | Hilton Tokyo Hotel. 26 August 2012 to 3 September 2012 (8 nights) Note: <i>Separate receipt provided for 26 August 2012 to 1 September 2012</i> | 22,975 JPY – Room per night 200 JPY – Tax 23,175 JPY per night x 6 nights 139,050 JPY Total Approximately \$1,733.28 Conversion rate on 1 September was \$1 = 78.4142 JPY |
| Transportation – Tokyo | Bus Ticket purchased through the hotel on 31 August 2012 (charge is on the hotel receipt) | 3,000 JPY Approximately \$38.26 Conversion rate on 1 September was \$1 = 78.4142 JPY |
| Note: Leave/Non-duty days | 1 September to 9 September 2012 | No cost to government |
| Flight 3 – Depart 3 September; arrive on 3 September 2012 | Traveled from Tokyo (NRT) to Manila, Philippines (MNL) | No cost to government |
| Flight 4 – Depart 10 September 2012; arrive on 10 September 2012 | Traveled from Manila, Philippines (MNL) to Washington DC (WAS) | Note: Cost should be government rate from TYO/NRT to DCA. |
| Airfare Totals | Flight 1 – DCA to LAX Flight 2 – LAX to TYO/NRT Flight 3 – TYO/NRT to MNL Flight 4 – MNL to DCA | Total Airfare = \$9,284 |
| Lodging Totals | Week 1 – Monterey Week 2 – Tokyo | Monterey = \$1,718 Tokyo = \$1,733 Est Total Lodging = \$3,451 * Taxes estimated |
| Estimated MI&E Total | Week 1 – Monterey Week 2 – Tokyo | Monterey = \$408 Tokyo = \$1,654 Total MI&E = \$2,062 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Estimated Miscellaneous | Rental car Transportation in Japan Note: rental car not authorized | Rental car = \$456 Tokyo Bus = \$77 Total Misc. = \$533 |
| Estimated Total Cost | Flights Lodging MI&E Miscellaneous | Flights - \$9,284 Lodging - \$3,451 MI&E - \$2,062 Misc - <u>\$ 533</u> Total - <u>\$15,330</u> |

24. Emails dated 28 February 2017 to 14 March 2017, subject: FAO Reimbursement, between (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) and NPS Account Division employees, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). The email chain included internal NPS email discussing the facts.

28 February 2017: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) emails (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) summarizing what appeared to be a phone call. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated, in part:

She would gather all of the facts, and then seek out the program funding line that may have been used for locating his orders.

7 March 2017: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) responded to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) email and stated, in part:

He was inquiring about the status of his request for reimbursement for travel expenses. He was tracking down his orders and the original email and receipts that were emailed to a NPS accountant in charge of this travel.

8 to 12 March 2017 internal NPS emails tracking down information on the LOA.

12 March 2017: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) emailed (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stating, in part:

The standard documents number he traveled on was found and to work with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to continue the process for his reimbursement.

13 March 2017: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) replies to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to call him to discuss the reimbursement process.

14 March 2017: (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) replied that she is swamped right now, we are reviewing the status, and will be calling (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) this week.⁶

25. Internal NPS emails dated 28 and 29 August 2017, subject (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Reimbursement between NPS Accounting personnel and NPS Travel Office personnel. NPS Accounting personnel asked NPS Travel Office personnel if someone processed travel reimbursement for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). Travel Office personnel determined a travel order was needed to file a

⁶ There was no evidence located of a follow-up phone call or email.

voucher with NPS through the Command Support Detachment (CSD). Travel Office personnel believed the department who issued the fund cite generated the travel order (DD Form 1610).

26. On 26 September 2017, NPS returned unspent AJFAOP funds to the Defense Human Resource Activity (DHRA) in Alexandria, VA. The returned funds included the \$7,700 travel encumbrance for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

27. Emails dated 4 and 6 December 2018, subject: AJFAO Program Documents, between (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) NPS Travel Officer.

4 December 2018. Email from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was a follow-up to a phone call regarding a request for reimbursement for travel expenses. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) enclosed nine attachments of relevant email.

4 December 2018. Three internal email discussions between (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) and NPS personnel on documentation and the last response in 2017 that a voucher needed to be submitted.

4 December 2018. Email reply from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) which stated:

Please see the attached. For reimbursement, you will need to complete and submit a) your voucher (DD 1351-2, attached), b) the attached EFT form, c) the attached TDY checklist, and include with these documents a copy of your approved orders (DD 1610) and receipts from the trip.

4 December 2018. Email reply from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stating:

Thank you for your prompt reply. I will begin completing the enclosed documents and will forward you the other requested information ASAP. Once again, thank you for your continued assistance in this matter.

6 December 2018. Email from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) providing (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with an updated travel claim checklist.

28. Email dated 15 March 2021, subject: AJFAO Documents, from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) NPS Supervisory Travel Specialist which stated in part:

Thank you speaking with me this afternoon regarding my reimbursable expenses incurred when I participated in the Naval Postgraduate School's Advanced Joint Foreign Area Officer Course (NPS AJFAO) from August 18 – September 2, 2012. As stated previously during our recent discussion, I have numerous emails between myself and NPS staff regarding this issue, along with supporting fiscal documents.

29. Emails dated 16 March 2021, subject: AJFAO Documents, between (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) NPS Supervisory Travel Specialist.

16 March 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) requested information to better support his request for reimbursement.

16 March 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) replied with previously provided attachments and stated:

On several occasions, I requested my U.S. Army Reserve Unit (Consequence Management Unit, Abingdon, MD) issue me orders authorizing my attendance in the AJFAO Program. The unit repeatedly offered illogical excuses on their inability to produce orders for the following seven months until I was promoted out of the unit.

The travel voucher DD Form 1351-2 for my attendance in the AJFAO Program was never submitted to DFAS as an order is needed to begin the reimbursement process. In regards to, "or entity that provided guidance on what is needed to correct your claim for payment OR to adjust accounting/funding configurations to allow payment," I do know from experience the DFAS reimbursement process will not begin until the relevant fiscal data is updated by NPS and that the U.S. Army Reserve Command produces an order, which is my responsibility.

I can send you my travel and expense vouchers, but I initially sent you scanned copies of NPS generated fiscal data. I was reluctant to inundate you with numerous receipts, but will forward them to you if you wish to review them.

30. Emails 26 and 27 April 2021, subject: NPS Emails regarding (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) Requested Reimbursement, between (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) NPS Comptroller, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C)

26 April 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) emailed (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) thanking her for speaking to him the previous week and he provided information on his requested reimbursement.

26 April 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) forwarded the email information provided to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) and asked what steps were taken to resolve the claim.

26 April 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C).

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) provided information from the 4 December 2018 and that (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) did not provide a response to fill out the forms that were provided.

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated in part:

One point is that (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated his unit failed to cut the orders. Based on the past emails and in speaking with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), we just provided the LOA for his parent command to add to his DD 1610. That was his recollection anyway.

The request is still for NPS to activate that account so his Army unit can cut him his DD 1610 to then submit his claim on. There can be no claim until the orders are issued. Even if the accounting information they input

on his orders were wrong or invalid, we could still work with that and do an order modification to correct it.

27 April 2021. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stating, in part:

I have reviewed the information provided and have had additional discussions with leadership at NPS. As I stated in our call on Friday, April 23, NPS does not have the means to pay this outstanding travel claim. The funding used for this 2012 requirement was sent to NPS from the Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA) on behalf of the Defense Language Office with the specific purpose of delivering the Joint Foreign Area Officer (FAO) Skills Sustainment Pilot Program. All available funds that remained at the expiration of that appropriation were returned to the sponsor and are no longer available to NPS. In addition, NPS does not have appropriate funds to resolve this in FY21 as payment from existing O&M funds would be a violation of the purpose statute of the DoD FMR.

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) provided (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with information to work directly with the funding sponsor regarding the claim.

31. On 23 June 2022, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) requested assistance from the NPS OIG with getting his travel voucher paid. Naval Inspector General Hotline Tracking System (NIGHTS) case 202203334 was opened. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) provided the same documents submitted (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) on 26 April 2021, as well as her reply to him on 27 April 2021. The NPS OIG determined that (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) did not file a timely travel voucher from 2012, and he was told that NPS cannot legally pay the voucher. Multiple emails since 2017 show NPS told (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) what to provide and he did not do so. NPS OIG provided (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with additional information on how to contact the DFAS Customer Care Center, the DFAS OIG, the Army OIG, and the Army claim center to try and resolve his claim.

32. On 31 January 2023, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) contacted the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG) regarding unsettled temporary duty travel pay. On 2 February 2023, DAIG determined that the funding and travel authorization originated with the Department of the Navy, and the matters are not appropriate for the Army IG to address. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) was instructed to present the matters to the U.S. Navy IG or the DoD IG.

33. On 17 February 2023, a (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) filed a DoD IG Hotline complaint alleging he did not receive an acknowledgement or communication from the Naval Inspector General (NAVINSGEN) regarding a request submitted on 3 February 2023.⁷ (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) alleged he has not been reimbursed for \$8,200 in travel expenses for attendance at the Advanced Joint Foreign Area Officer Program (AJFAOP) from 19 August to 1 September 2012 at NPS. He previously contacted the Department of the Army Inspector General for efforts to resolve the matter but was told to contact the U.S. Navy. He contacted the NPS over the years and no one has been able to resolve the matter.

⁷ NAVINSGEN logged the contact on 2 February 2023 and started processing the complaint on 16 February 2023.

34. Email dated 12 April 2023, subject: Navy IG POC, from (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), Assistance and Investigation Branch, U.S. Army Inspector General Agency⁸, to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated:

The applicable rules for making payments from cancelled appropriations can be found in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (DoDFMR) Volume 3, Chapter 10 (specifically in paragraphs 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and the subparagraphs).

"3.3.3. In some instances, following closure/cancellation of an appropriation, it becomes necessary to adjust an obligation that otherwise would have been properly chargeable (both as to purpose and amount) to an appropriation before closure/cancellation. Should such an adjustment become necessary, the obligation must be charged to an appropriation currently available for the same purpose, subject to certain limitations discussed in subparagraph 3.3.4."

35. On 11 May 2023, contact was established with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) at the U.S. Army Inspector General Agency. NPS OIG requested technical assistance with resolving the travel claim.

36. Email dated 18 May 2023, subject: NPS OIG Follow-up – Case 202300663- Unit Orders, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) stated, in part:

When he attended the AJFAOP, he was assigned as a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) in the U.S. Army Reserves 81st Readiness Division (RD), Consequence Management Unit (CMU). His orders for attending the AJFAOP would have originated from the 81st RD, and he was attempting to obtain a copy of the orders. He has also reached out to the U.S. Army Reserve Human Resources Command for assistance.

In April 2021 he contacted (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), Director, Capabilities and Foreign Area Officer Policy, at the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) eventually cease communicating with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) in October 2021 after no results to resolve his issue.

37. On 26 May 2023, contact was established with (b)(6) (b)(7)(C), Director, Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (LREC) Capabilities and Readiness, at the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). NPS OIG requested assistance with resolving (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) travel claim.

Joint Foreign Area Officer Skills Sustainment Pilot Program

38. On 3 October 2011, the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (N1) and the Director of the Defense Language Office (DLO) established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to define role and responsibilities for the Joint Foreign Officer Skill Sustainment Pilot Program.

Paragraph 3, Roles and Responsibilities, states, in part:

⁸ Also known as the Department of the Army Inspector General (DAIG).

- a. (1) DLO will sponsor and fund the program.
- a. (3) NPS serves as the implementing agent for the program implementation.
- b. (1)(b) DLO will provide program funding.

Paragraph 5, Funding, states, in part:

DLO shall provide funding based on availability on a reimbursable basis to NPS for services requested under the MOA.

39. On 8 November 2011, NPS accepted funding from the Defense Human Resource Activity (DHRA) on Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) dated 17 October 2011 to support the Joint Foreign Area Officer Skills Sustainment Training conducted by NPS.

STANDARDS

40. Department of Defense (DoD) 7000.14-R, Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Volume 9, Chapter 5, Temporary Duty Travel (TDY), dated October 2010.⁹ Paragraph 0503, Travel Orders, sub-paragraph 050301.A, Funding, states, in part:

If funding is to be provided by another office, then the traveler's organization shall, prior to issuing travel orders, obtain a fund cite from that office in an amount sufficient to pay for the travel.

41. DoD 7000.14-R, FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 8, Processing Travel Claims – Other than Defense Travel System, dated 11 August 2011.¹⁰ Paragraph 0805, Submission of Travel Claims, sub-paragraph 080501, Temporary Duty (TDY) and Permanent Duty Travel (PDT) Claims, states:

All claims must be submitted within 5 working days of return to or arrival at the PDS.

42. Department of Defense (DoD) 7000.14-R, Financial Management Regulation (FMR), Volume 3, Chapter 10, Accounting requirement for Expired and Closed Accounts. Paragraph 3.3, Closed/Cancelled Accounts states:

Sub-paragraph 3.3.3 states:

In some instances, following closure/cancellation of an appropriation, it becomes necessary to adjust an obligation that otherwise would have been properly chargeable (both as to purpose and amount) to an appropriation before closure/cancellation. Should such an adjustment become necessary, the obligation must be charged to an appropriation currently available for the same purpose, subject to certain limitations discussed in subparagraph 3.3.4. If an adjustment to an obligation otherwise properly chargeable to a closed/cancelled appropriation

⁹ Regulation in effect during the travel.

¹⁰ Regulation in effect during the travel.

pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §§ 1551 – 1557 is required, and the related program or function has migrated from one DoD activity to another, the adjustment is chargeable to the current DoD activity to which the program has transferred. The current DoD activity is responsible for providing current year funds from an appropriation account available for the same purpose to satisfy the obligation.

Sub-paragraph 3.3.6.3 states, in part:

Ensure that an adequate audit trail is maintained for all corrections affecting closed/cancelled appropriations, including any offsetting corrections to current or expired appropriations.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

43. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) alleged he has not been reimbursed for \$8,200 in travel expenses for attendance at the AJFAOP from 19 August to 1 September 2012 at NPS. He previously contacted the DAIG to resolve the matter but was told to contact the U.S. Navy. He contacted the NPS over the years and no one has been able to resolve the matter.

44. It was the responsibility of the U.S. Army Reserve Consequence Management Unit to generate the travel orders for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) attendance at the AJFAOP Asia Course as stated in paragraph 2 of the Fund Cite Authorization Memorandum dated 17 July 2012. This information was provided to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) on 23 July 2012 to provide to his unit as outlined in DoD FMR, volume 9, Chapter 5, paragraph 050301.A.

45. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) admitted he failed to have the Consequence Management Unit generate the travel orders for his attendance at the AJFAOP.

46. Since (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) arranged travel outside of the Defense Travel System as required, performed circuitous travel, traveled in business class, and stay at a hotel above per diem, he would only be reimbursed at a rate the government would have paid for the travel. The estimated travel cost from Table 1 the government would have paid was approximately \$6,767. This amount did not include miscellaneous expenses such as transportation to and from the starting point and other expenses such as parking. The U.S. Army travel voucher reconciliation process would need to determine the final amount the government would pay.

47. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) admitted he failed to process a travel voucher with his reserve unit as stated in paragraph 3 of the Fund Cite Authorization Memorandum dated 17 July 2012. He was required to submit a travel claim within 5 working days of his return as outlined on DoD FMR volume 9, chapter 8, paragraph 080501. NPS could not process a travel voucher without a travel order. \$7,700 in funding obligated for the travel was returned to DLNSEO in 2017.

48. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) engaged NPS in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2022 in an attempt to have NPS process and pay for his travel expenses related to his attendance at the AJFAOP. NPS could not process a travel voucher without a travel order. When NPS requested a copy of the travel order, a travel voucher, and receipts, (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) did not provide the requested documents.

49. On 1 September 2017, the fund cite authorization for \$7,700 expired and the unused funding was returned to the sponsor of the AJFAOP. Funding was available for obligation in 2012 and the appropriation associated with the funding closed in 2017.¹¹ NPS was the organization that administered the AJFAOP under the memorandum of the agreement (MOA) with the Defense Language Office (DLO), the sponsor of the AJFAOP and who provided funding. DLO is now the Defense Language National Security Education Office (DLNSEO).

50. DoD FMR volume 3, chapter 10, sub-paragraph 3.3.3 provides a provision to make an adjustment to an obligation that would have been properly chargeable (both as to purpose and amount) to an appropriation before closure. The obligation would be charged to an appropriation currently available for the same purpose. The current DoD activity for the related program or function is responsible for providing current year funds from an appropriation account available for the same purpose to satisfy the obligation.

51. The original \$7,700 obligation travel encumbrance is valid. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) attended the AJFAOP in 2012, incurred travel expenses, and did not receive reimbursement for travel expenses.

52. DLNSEO would be responsible for and would need to agree to provide current year funds to satisfy the obligation to pay the travel expenses incurred by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to attend the AJFAOP course in 2012. This could be in the form of a fund cite or line of accounting (LOA).

53. The U.S. Army would be responsible for generating the required travel order authorization using a DLNSEO fund cite or LOA in order for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) to submit a travel voucher for payment of his travel expenses. The U.S. Army travel voucher reconciliation process would need to determine the final amount due to (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) which the government would pay.

CONCLUSION

54. The preponderance of evidence showed:

There were no improper actions by NPS to warrant a full investigation. NPS was not responsible for resolving payment of travel expenses incurred by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) in 2012.

Although NPS provided the fund cite authorization of \$7,700 to pay for (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) travel expense in 2012, NPS was not responsible for resolving payment of travel expenses. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) procured his official travel outside of DTS and did not follow travel instructions provided by NPS. Instead of processing a travel voucher with his U.S. Army Reserve unit, he attempted to resolve payment for his travel expenses with NPS in 2017, 2018, 2021 and 2022, but he did not provide a travel order or other requested documentation. NPS could not process a travel expense reconciliation without

¹¹ Title 31 U.S. Code § 1552. Procedure for appropriation accounts available for definite periods states: (a) On September 30th of the 5th fiscal year after the period of availability for obligation of a fixed appropriation account ends, the account shall be closed and any remaining balance (whether obligated or unobligated) in the account shall be canceled and thereafter shall not be available for obligation or expenditure for any purpose.

a travel order. Additionally, funding associated with the travel was returned to DLNSEO in 2017.

(b)(6) (b)(7)(C) failed to have his U.S. Army Reserve unit generate a travel order at any point in 2012 and failed to properly submit a travel voucher for payment to the U.S. Army within 5 working days of completing his travel. The U.S. Army was responsible for generating a travel order and for processing a travel voucher for payment for travel expenses.

The original \$7,700 obligation travel encumbrance was valid in 2012. (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) attended the AJFAOP in 2012, incurred travel expenses, and did not receive reimbursement for his travel expenses.

On 1 October 2017, funding associated with the AJFAOP fund cite expired (appropriation closed) and was returned to DLNSEO. The DoD FMR, Volume 3, Chapter 10 provides a provision to satisfy a valid obligation from a close appropriation. DLNSEO would be responsible for and would need to agree to provide current year funds to satisfy the obligation to pay the travel expenses incurred by (b)(6) (b)(7)(C). This could be in the form of a fund cite or line of accounting (LOA) provided to the U.S. Army.

Although (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) failed to have his U.S. Army Reserve unit generate his travel orders in 2012 and failed to submit a travel voucher for payment to the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army would be responsible for generating a new travel order and for processing the travel voucher for his payment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

55. Close the case. There were no improper actions by NPS to warrant a full investigation.
56. Assist (b)(6) (b)(7)(C) with information on how to resolve the matter.
57. Provide DLNSEO information on how to resolve the travel expense obligation.
58. Provide DAIG information on how to resolve the travel expense reconciliation.

END OF REPORT